Amendments to the Claims

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A cancer-associated gene mina53 comprising ten exons comprising exon 1 as a transcription initiation site on the most upstream side, exon 2 comprising a translation initiation site, and lastly exon 10 comprising a stop codon.

27. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, which has a nucleotide sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 1.

28. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, which is a mouse cancer-associated gene mina53 having a nucleotide sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 2, or a rat cancer-associated gene mina53 having a nucleotide sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 3.

29. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, which encodes a protein with a molecular weight of 53 kDa.

30. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, which has a nucleotide sequence binding to a Myc protein as a transcription factor which regulates expression of said gene.

31. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 29, wherein said protein is localized in the nucleolus.

32. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 30, whose expression is induced by c-myc gene.

33. (New) A human Mina53 protein having an amino acid sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 1 and cell proliferation activity.

34. (New) A mouse Mina53 protein having an amino acid sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 2 and cell proliferation activity.

35. (New) A rat Mina53 protein having an amino acid sequence designated by SEQ ID No. 3 and cell proliferation activity.

36. (New) A vector comprising the cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26.

37. (New) A vector comprising the cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 27.

38. (New) A vector comprising the cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 28.

39. (New) A vector encoding the human Mina53 protein according to Claim 33.

40. (New) A reporter plasmid comprising a human mina53 genomic DNA fragments comprising a specific site of the cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, and luciferase cDNA operably binding thereto.

41. (New) A transformant comprising the vector according to Claim 36.

42. (New) A transformant comprising the vector according to Claim 37.

43. (New) A transformant comprising the vector according to Claim 38.

44. (New) A transformant comprising the vector according to Claim 39.

45. (New) A nucleic acid for regulating the expression of Mina53, which is used for regulating the expression of Mina53 using the cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26 or a fragment thereof.

46. (New) An antibody against Mina53 protein.

47. (New) The antibody according to Claim 46, which is a monoclonal antibody.

48. (New) A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody according to Claim 47.

49. (New) The hybridoma according to Claim 48, which is FERM BP-10157.

50. (New) A method for detecting Mina53 protein, which comprises detecting the Mina53 protein in a cancer cell or a cancer tissue using the monoclonal antibody according to Claim 47.

51. (New) The method for detecting Mina53 protein according to Claim 50, wherein said cancer is a colon cancer or an esophageal cancer.

52. (New) A method for diagnosing cancer, which comprises diagnosing cancer by detecting Mina53 protein according to Claim 50.

53. (New) The method for diagnosing cancer according to Claim 52, wherein said cancer is a colon cancer or an esophageal cancer.

54. (New) The method for diagnosing cancer according to Claim 52, which comprises diagnosing a prognosis of cancer.

55. (New) A method for preventing or treating cancer, which comprises administering an effective amount of the nucleic acid according to Claim 45.

56. (New) A method for preventing or treating cancer, which comprises administering an effective amount of the monoclonal antibody according to Claim 47.

57. (New) The cancer-associated gene mina53 according to Claim 26, further comprising exon 5, exon 6 and exon 5' located between exon 5 and exon 6.